



**US Army Corps  
of Engineers®**  
**Kansas City District**

# Information Paper

## Missouri River Fish and Wildlife Mitigation Project Thurnau, MO



*View of Thurnau site as it lies adjacent to the  
Tarkio River, May 2004*

### Contact

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### Location

3 miles west of Craig in Holt County, Missouri.

### Description

The Thurnau mitigation site is currently 1,372 acres in size. The lands are on the left descending bank of the Missouri River at river miles 512 to 508. The Corps of Engineers purchased the lands at the Thurnau mitigation site from willing sellers in 1999 through 2001.

The Corps lands are adjacent to 400 acres at the Thurnau Conservation Area that is owned and operated by the Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC). The properties are adjacent to the mouth of the Tarkio River. The Corps lands have been turned over to the Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC) for short-term management while additional acquisitions are attempted to round out the site. The Corps also is attempting to obtain permanent easement to the MDC lands.

In cooperation with the Corps, MDC has planted native grasses and trees at the Thurnau mitigation site. A majority of the area is being leased for agricultural production pending additional acquisitions. These areas will be converted to habitats over time.

In the future, the Corps plans to modify the existing structures along the bank of the river to improve aquatic diversity in the river. Additionally, the Corps will be breaching an existing levee to allow flows to spread out over the area during high river stages in either the Tarkio or Missouri Rivers. The Corps will be installing a “fish friendly” water control structure that will allow flood flows to enter into even more areas of site, create a backwater nursery area, and opportunistic wetland areas.

### Current Status

In Fall 2004, the Corps will be completing the Environmental Assessment for the site. The work in the preferred alternative will be installed over the next few years, pending available funds. Meanwhile, the area is open to the public for a variety of uses including bird watching, hiking, and hunting when in season.